

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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SUBJ: MISSING JOURNALISTS MOREAU AND TODD

1. TWO JOURNALISTS, RON MOREAU OF NEWS WEEK, AND OLIVIER TODD OF NOUVELLE OBSERVATEUR, PARIS, WHO HAVE BEEN REPORTED FOR PAST EIGHT DAYS IN VC CONTROLLED TERRITORY IN AN XUYEN PROVINCE, APPARENTLY WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY APRIL 26 BY GVN NATIONAL POLICE.

2. POLICE TOLD VICE CONSUL AT RACH GIA CITY, KIEN GIANG PROVINCE, THAT TWO JOURNALISTS -- ONE AMERICAN AND THE OTHER FRENCH-- WERE PICKED UP ALONG WITH WOMAN COMPANION IN AUTOMOBILE DRIVING NORTH FROM RACH GIA CITY TOWARD HA TIEN WHICH IS LOCATED CLOSE TO CAMBODIAN FRONTIER.

3. IN ALL PROBABILITY, THE JOURNALISTS ARE MOREAU AND TODD AND FRENCH WOMAN COMPANION WHO REPORTEDLY ENTERED VC BASE AREA 482 ON APRIL 18. THEY WERE SAID TO HAVE BEEN STOPPED BY POLICE ABOUT 30 MINUTES NORTH OF RACH GIA CITY AT A POINT WHERE GIEN THANH AND KIEN LUONG MERGE IN KIEN GIANG PROVINCE. THEY ARE BEING HELD IN RACH GIA CITY.

4. MOREAU AND TODD ENTERED VC CONTROLLED BASE AREA, APPARENTLY ON VISIT ARRANGED BY PRG CONTACT IN SAIGON. REPORTS AT VARIOUS
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TIMES IN PAST EIGHT DAYS HAVE PLACED THEM IN COMPANY OF VC CADRE
AT PRG PUBLIC GATHERINGS IN AN XUYEN PROVINCE.

5. AN XUYEN PROVINCE CHIEF HAS TOLD CONGEN REPRESENTATIVE
THAT WHEN MOREAU AND TODD EMERGED FROM VC AREA, HIS ORDERS
WERE TO TURN THEM OVER TO NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF, SAIGON.

6. SINCE GVN TAKES DIM VIEW OF VISITS BY CORRESPONDENTS TO
VC TERRITORY, MOREAU AND TODD WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY BE IN FOR
POSSIBLE EXPULSION FROM COUNTRY.

7. NEWSWEEK SAIGON BUREAUCHIEF LLOYD NORMAN HAS BEEN INFORMED
OF REPORT OF THE MISSING JOURNALISTS' APPREHENSION. NORMAN
TOLDEMBASSY PRESS ASSISTANT HE WOULDNOT PASS STORY ON TO
NEWSWEEK
NEW YORK OFFICE UNTIL MORNING OF APRIL 27 WHEN MORE COMPLETE
INFORMATION MIGHT BE AVAILABLE.
BUNKER

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